

## **Introduction**

The world we live in continues to change. For students to succeed in school, at work, and in the community, they will need more skills and knowledge than ever before. To ensure all students have every opportunity to succeed, Indiana adopted the Common Core State Standards in the area of Mathematics, as well as English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

## **Common Core State Standards Philosophy**

The Common Core State Standards:

- are aligned with college and work expectations.
- include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills.
- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
- are internationally benchmarked.
- are evidence and/or research-based.

The Common Core State Standards will

- help prepare all students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and careers.
- assist students who move between states.
- create the opportunity for America to compete for high-wage, high-skill jobs in a knowledge-based economy.
- allow for more focused pre-service education and professional development.
- create economies of scale around areas such as curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment.

## **Role of the Teacher**

While the standards set expectations for student learning for each grade level, they do not prescribe how the standards should be taught. Teachers should use their skills, experience, talents, and resources to design standards-based classroom lessons that meet the needs of individual students.

## **Assessment Horizon**

Indiana is a governing state in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Through PARCC a new generation of assessments will be developed and used throughout the nation, allowing us to compare and evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states and school districts.

The Common Core assessment includes a summative test, which will be administered online beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The assessment also includes “through-course assessments” that take place over the course of the year, allowing teachers to adjust their instruction based on students’ results. As a governing state, Indiana will pilot Common Core items in 2012-13 and 2013-14 and provide schools with data regarding student performance on the Common Core State Standards.

## **Impact on Instruction**

### Grades K, 1, and 2

In 2011-12, kindergarten teachers will be the first to teach *only* the Common Core. Those kindergarteners will be the first class of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to participate in the Common Core assessment. First-grade and second-grade students will learn Indiana Academic Standards and identified elements of Common Core in 2011-12. First-grade students will learn *only* Common Core in 2012-13. Second-grade students will learn *only* Common Core in 2013-14.

### Grades 3-12

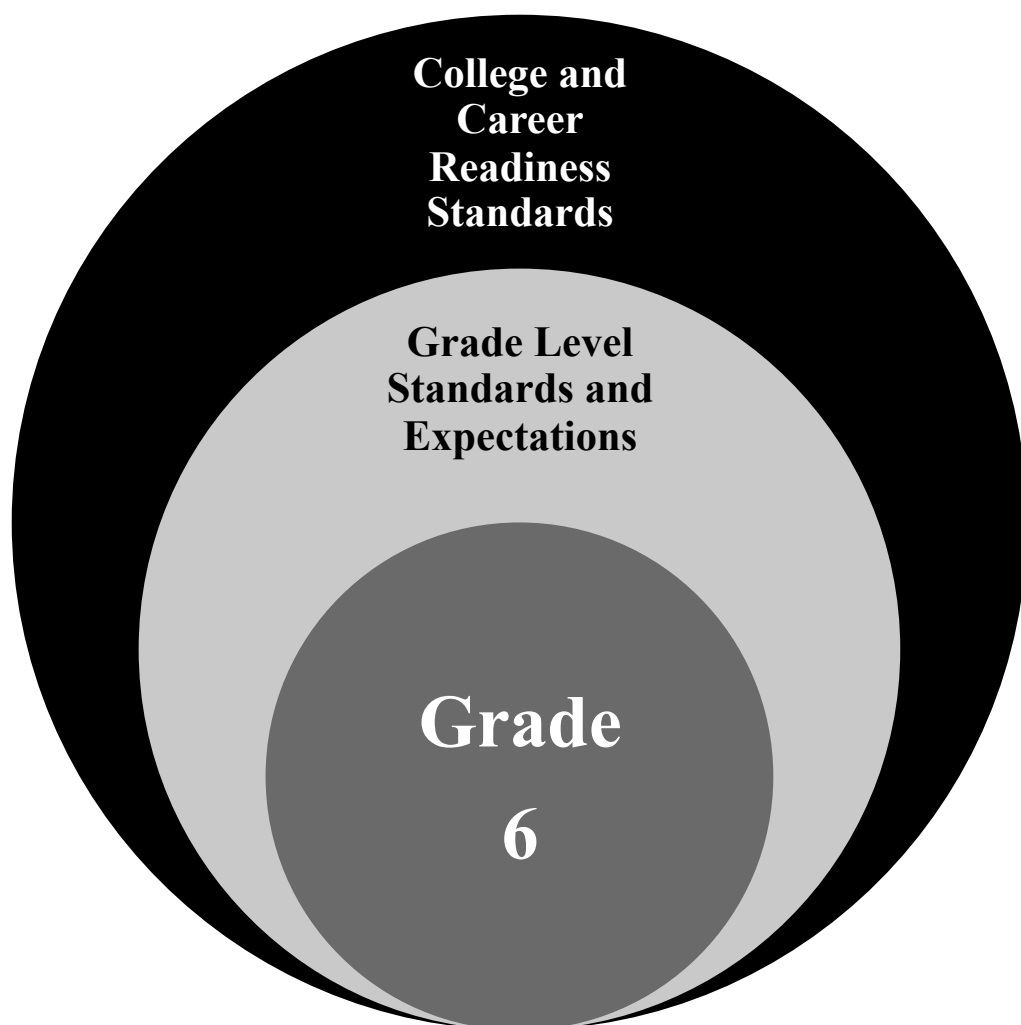
Students in grades 3-12 will receive an intentional introduction to the Common Core beginning with the 2011-12 school year to ensure they have the foundation for future learning with no instructional gaps. In 2014-15, all ELA and math teachers will *only* teach Common Core.

## **Final Notes**

Indiana Department of Education staff members are working diligently, both externally with other states, and internally across the IDOE, to ensure the development of a common scope and sequence for Common Core. This work is critical as we begin the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

Equally as important, efforts are underway to assist teachers in understanding what to teach next year (and in subsequent years). A tight alignment between the content which is “taught” and that which is “tested” on ISTEP+ and ECAs, together with the initiation of Common Core State Standards instruction, facilitates the important work of developing the foundation for future learning and assessment.

# English Language Arts Academic Standards: Grade 6



Indiana Department of Education  
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

## **Interpreting the Cover Page**

The graphic found on the cover page attempts to illustrate the fundamental structure of Indiana's academic standards. The smallest circle represents the instructional expectations for one grade level. These are directly aligned with *all* grade level standards and expectations. In this way, each grade level serves as an essential part of the bigger picture. Perhaps most importantly, with the adoption of the Common Core Standards, the indicators for each grade level lead directly towards demonstrating proficiency of the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards. The path to a post-secondary pursuit is now seamless from Kindergarten through high school graduation.

## **Reading this Document**

**English Language Arts Academic Standards: Grade 6**



**College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards**

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

### **Key Ideas and Details**

- 6.RI.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- 6.RI.2** Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- 6.RI.3** Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

### **Craft and Structure**

- 6.RI.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
- 6.RI.5** Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
- 6.RI.6** Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

### **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

- 6.RI.7** Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- 6.RI.8** Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- 6.RI.9** Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

### **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity**

- 6.RI.10** By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

The following standards offer a focus for instruction and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

### Key Ideas and Details

- 6.RL.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- 6.RL.2** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- 6.RL.3** Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

### Craft and Structure

- 6.RL.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- 6.RL.5** Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- 6.RL.6** Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- 6.RL.7** Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.
- 6.RL.8** (This College and Career Readiness Standard does not have a literature component)
- 6.RL.9** Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- 6.RL.10** By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

The following standards offer a focus for instruction to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

### Text Types and Purposes

**6.W.1** Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- a. Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
- b. Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
- d. Establish and maintain a formal style.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.

**6.W.2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- a. Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- c. Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- e. Establish and maintain a formal style.
- f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

- 6.W.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
  - b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
  - d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
  - e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

### **Production and Distribution of Writing**

- 6.W.4** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 6.W.5** With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- 6.W.6** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.

### **Research to Build and Present Knowledge**

- 6.W.7** Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
- 6.W.8** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.



**6.W.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- a. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.>").
- b. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.>").

### **Range of Writing**

**6.W.10** Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

The following standards offer a focus for instruction to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

### Conventions of Standard English

- 6.L.1** Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- a. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).
  - b. Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves).
  - c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
  - d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).
  - e. Recognize variations from Standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
- 6.L.2** Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.
  - b. Spell correctly.

### Knowledge of Language

- 6.L.3** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/ listener interest, and style.
  - b. Maintain consistency in style and tone.

## Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- 6.L.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
  - Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible).
  - Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
  - Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
- 6.L.5** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.
  - Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.
  - Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, thrifty).
- 6.L.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

The following standards offer a focus for instruction to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

### Comprehension and Collaboration

- 6.SL.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
  - b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
  - c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
  - d. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
- 6.SL.2** Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
- 6.SL.3** Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- 6.SL.4** Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
- 6.SL.5** Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
- 6.SL.6** Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

## **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading**

The standards on the previous pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of grade 6. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements – the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity – that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### **Key Ideas and Details**

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

### **Craft and Structure**

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

### **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.\*
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

### **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity**

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

\*Please see “Research to Build and Present Knowledge” in Writing and “Comprehension and Collaboration” in Speaking and Listening for additional standards relevant to gathering, assessing, and applying information from print and digital sources.

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The standards on the previous pages define what students should understand and be able to do at the end of grade 6. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements – the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity – that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Text Types and Purposes\*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

\*These broad types of writing include many subgenres. See Appendix A for definitions of key writing types.

## **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language**

The standards on the previous pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of grade 6. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards necessary complements – the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity – that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### **Conventions of Standard English**

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### **Knowledge of Language**

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

### **Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

## **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening**

The standards on the previous pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of grade 6. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements – the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity – that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### **Comprehension and Collaboration**

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaboration with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

### **Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas**

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.